

**REPORT/RECOMMENDATION TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
OF SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY, CALIFORNIA
AND RECORD OF ACTION**

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June 24, 2003

FROM: GARY PENROD, Sheriff
Sheriff's Department

SUBJECT: GRANT APPLICATION TO THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE, OFFICE OF
COMMUNITY ORIENTED POLICING SERVICES, THE ENHANCEMENT OF
COMMUNITY POLICING.

RECOMMENDATION:

1. Approve grant application to the U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Community Oriented Policing Services, The Enhancement of Community Policing, in the amount of \$48,889.
2. Authorize Sheriff to submit grant application to the U.S. Department of Justice.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION: The Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) is seeking proposals to fund a variety of initiatives designed to enhance local law enforcement community policing efforts. The Sheriff's Department, Volunteer Forces Unit, is applying for funds under the area of Volunteers in Police Service to expand the San Bernardino County Let's End Truancy (L.E.T.) Program to include the high and low desert regions of the County. The program was developed by the District Attorney's Office (DA) in a joint effort with the San Bernardino County Superintendent of Schools Office in an attempt to reach students, and parents of those students, who are at risk for becoming chronically truant. The L.E.T. Program teaches students and their parents about the consequences of truancy. The goal of the program is to help get kids to school and keep kids in school. San Bernardino County has a serious truancy problem. It is known that truancy is often the "gateway" to juvenile delinquency and later to more serious adult crime. Truancy also creates a greater risk for involvement in drugs, alcohol, gangs, violence and teenage pregnancy.

This L.E.T. Program expansion will focus on the following 12 school districts: Baker, Barstow, Bear Valley, Helendale, Lucerne Valley, Morongo Valley, Needles, Oro Grande, Rim of the World, Silver Valley, Snowline and Trona. The Sheriff's Department Citizens on Patrol (COP's) will act as liaisons between the schools and the parents. COP's will interact with the DA, the Probation Department, the schools, and the School Attendance and Review Board to address the truancy problem. COP's will work with families to determine the causes of truancy and look at the student in totality to best assess their needs. COP's will use laptop computers to track the success of the program. It is anticipated that after one year of operations, this program expansion will reduce the truancy rate by at least 50% and the total absences by at least 40%.

If this grant application is accepted and grant funds are awarded, in the amount of \$48,889, it will provide funding for 10% of the cost of one deputy, travel for mandated training, 12 laptop computers and miscellaneous supplies. No matching funds are required. Anticipated program period is September 1, 2003 through August 31, 2003. Applications must be received no later than **June 30, 2003**.

REVIEW BY OTHERS: This item has been reviewed by County Counsel (Kevin L. Norris, Deputy County Counsel) on June 17, 2003; and has been reviewed by the County Administrative Office (Mario Lara, Administrative Analyst) on June 17, 2003.

FINANCIAL IMPACT: If awarded, this grant, in the amount of \$48,889, will fund 10% of the cost of one deputy, travel for mandated training, 12 laptop computers and miscellaneous supplies. No matching funds are required. No impact to local funds.

SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICT(S): All

PRESENTER: Rod Hoops, Captain, 387-3637

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Record of Action of the Board of Supervisors

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